

4. (Amended) A device according to claims 1 or 2, characterised in that a partition wall (13) is provided below the feed aperture (14), for deflecting the incoming plastic material by means of a funnel section (13'), so as to deflect the material to a preceding compartment (12'), thus at least partially covering the subsequent compartment (12") by the funnel section (13').

5. (Amended) A device according to claims 1 or 2, characterised in that the first compartment (12') takes up more than half, preferably more than 2/3 of the area in top view of the treatment space (12) which is at least approximately rotation-symmetrical, and that this first compartment (12') is followed by a second compartment (12") which is accordingly smaller.

6. (Amended) A device according to claims 1 or 2, characterised in that a monitoring arrangement such as an inspection glass (24) is associated with at least one compartment (12"), e. g. the last compartment.

7. (Amended) A device according to claims 1 or 2, characterised in that the floor region of the treatment space (12) is the perforated floor (16) of a fluidised bed.

Please rewrite Claims 16 and 17 to read as follows:

16. (Amended) A method according to one of claims 8, 9, 12 or 13, characterised in that precrystallisation and crystallisation are preferably carried out within a duration of 10 to 80 minutes, preferably 15 to 40 minutes, in particular within approx. 20 to 30 minutes.

17. (Amended) A method according to one of claims 8, 9, 12 or 13, characterised in that heating following crystallisation, including precondensation, takes place within a duration of 60 to 120 minutes, in particular approx. 90 minutes.

After the claims, please add the following abstract:

Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention relates to a method for treating plastic material, especially polyethylene terephthalate, wherein the relatively low temperature material is initially crystallized by heating before subjecting said material to heating or condensation in the solid phase. The material is then exposed to a hot treatment gas for at least 10 minutes in at least two chambers (2) of an apparatus and crystallized at a temperature above 135°C, e.g. 140-180°C. The material is subsequently heated in a preheating chamber (3) having at least one to eight stages at a